

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1.– 47. (Canceled)

48. (Currently Amended) A method of transmission of application data in a plurality of services in a digital transport stream, each of said plurality of services carrying at least one application, comprising:

providing a[[n]] single application data table containing information regarding said at least one application carried by each of a plurality of the services within the transport stream,

wherein the at least one application is an executable interactive application configured to execute on a decoder, and

wherein the single application data table comprises:

a service description part comprising a list of applications carried by each of the plurality of services, and an application description part comprising a mapping of an application identifier uniquely identifying the at least one application to characteristics of the at least one application,

wherein the characteristics are evaluated when a user switches from a first service comprising a first application and a second application to a second service comprising the first application and a third application, wherein the evaluation of the characteristics of the first, second, and third applications determines whether to maintain, delete, or download one or more of the first, second, and third applications.

49. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 48, wherein the single application data table is transported in a transport packet having predetermined packet ID value associated with the presence of an application data table within the packet.

50. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 48, wherein said single application data table is electronically signed so as to permit a decoder to verify [[an]] the single application data table as originating from a known operator.

51. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 48, wherein each of the plurality of services further comprises a program map table giving access to applications carried by this service, the program map table itself comprising information regarding said at least one application carried by this service.

52. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 48, further comprising:

providing a plurality of said application data tables, each application data table containing information regarding applications contained within a bouquet of services.

53. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 52, wherein each application data table is transported in one of a table and a section within a transport packet, each application data table being associated with one of a table and a section having one of a characteristic table ID and a characteristic table ID extension value.

54. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 48, further comprising:

receiving the single application data table in a digital television system.

55. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 48, wherein the digital transport stream conforms to the MPEG standard.

56. (Currently Amended) A transmission apparatus comprising:

[[means]] a transmitter of a digital broadcast system for transmitting a transport stream comprising a plurality of services, wherein each of the plurality of services carries at least one application, together with a[[n]] single application data table comprising information regarding said at least one application carried by each of a plurality of the services within the transport stream.

wherein the at least one application comprises an executable interactive application configured to be executed on a decoder, and

~~wherein the application data table comprises information regarding said at least one application carried by each of a plurality of the services within the transport stream wherein the single application data table further comprises:~~

a service description part comprising a list of applications carried by each of the plurality of services, and

an application description part comprising a mapping of an application identifier uniquely identifying the at least one application to characteristics of the at least one application,

wherein the characteristics are evaluated when a user switches from a first service comprising a first application and a second application to a second service comprising the first application and a third application, wherein the evaluation of the characteristics of the first, second, and third applications determines whether to maintain, delete, or download one or more of the first, second, and third applications.

57. (Currently Amended) The transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 56, wherein the ~~transmitting means~~ transmitter is adapted to transmit the single application data table in a transport packet having a predetermined packet ID value associated with the presence of an application data table within the packet.

58. (Currently Amended) The transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 56, wherein the single application data table is ~~comprising means for electronically signed[[ing]] said application data table~~ so as to permit a decoder to verify ~~[[an]]~~ the single application data table as originating from a known operator.

59. (Currently Amended) The transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 56, wherein the ~~transmitting means~~ transmitter is adapted to transmit, for each service, a program map table giving access to applications carried by that service, the program map table itself comprising information regarding said at least one application carried by this service.

60. (Currently Amended) The transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 56, wherein the ~~transmitting means~~ transmitter is adapted to transmit a plurality of said application data tables, each application data table containing information regarding applications contained within a bouquet of services.

61. (Currently Amended) The transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 60, wherein the ~~transmitting means~~ transmitter is adapted to transmit each application data table and a section within a transport packet, each application data table being associated with one of a table and a section having one of a characteristic table ID and a characteristic table ID extension value.

62. (Previously Presented) A transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 56, wherein the digital transport stream conforms to the MPEG standard.

63. (Currently Amended) A decoder comprising:

a memory for storing a[[n]] single application data table comprising information regarding applications carried by a plurality of services within the transport stream, wherein each of the plurality of services carries at least one application, wherein the at least one application comprises an executable interactive application executed by the decoder,

wherein the single application data table further comprises:

a service description part comprising a list of applications carried by each of the plurality of services, and

an application description part comprising a mapping of an application identifier uniquely identifying the at least one application to characteristics of the at least one application,

wherein the characteristics are evaluated when a user switches from a first service comprising a first application and a second application to a second service comprising the first application and a third application, wherein the evaluation of the characteristics of the first, second, and third applications

determines whether to maintain, delete, or download one or more of the first, second, and third applications; and

means for controlling, when changing between the plurality of services, the downloading, deleting, and maintenance of [[such]] the first, second, and third applications in dependence on the characteristics of each of the first, second, and third applications~~information~~ contained within the single application data table.

64. (Currently Amended) The decoder as claimed in claim 63, wherein said single application data table is electronically signed so as to permit the decoder to verify [[an]] the single application data table as originating from a known operator.